

QUARTERLY PERISCOPE.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

ANATOMY.

1. *New Membrane in the Eye*.—GEORGE H. FIELDING, ESQ. in a communication to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, endeavours to prove that immediately behind the retina and in connexion with it, there is a coloured membrane of a peculiar nature, distinct from the *pigmentum nigrum*. The eyes taken for the purpose of experiment were those of the ox and the sheep, in each of which the part in question, of a fine blue or green colour, appears at the back of the globe of the eye, immediately in contact with the retina, having behind it the true pigmentum. To prove the difference between this membrane and the pigmentum, the author quotes Dr. Young's account of the latter, in which it is described as composed of mucous and carbonaceous matter, as staining white paper, and easily removable from the choroides by washing it with water and a soft pencil; but according to the author, the membrane in question will not stain white paper, nor will it part with its colour on the application of water. Its surface is bright and polished, and varies in colour according to the angle under which it is viewed, and according as it is examined by reflected or transmitted light. A portion of it, which was of a pale blue by reflected light, appeared of a yellowish red by transmitted light; dipped in dilute sulphuric or muriatic acid, or in solution of ammonia, its colours begin to fade; if it is then plunged into cold water, they entirely disappear; if again into the acids or alkali, they reappear as bright as ever. The author infers that the colours depend not on any peculiar secreted matter, but on the general laws for thin plates.

† Examined with a fine achromatic microscope of Chevalier's construction, blood-vessels, and even the red globules contained in them, were visible in the membrane. By careful dissection in water, it is separable in distinct layers from the choroid. Its colour is frequently different in the same species of animals; it is usually blue in the ox, the pigment in the same animal being of a rich brown; in the cat and fox the membrane is of a golden yellow, the pigment a rich black; in the deer the membrane is pale blue, but the pigment a light brown.

The author proposes to name the subject of his researches *Membrana versicolor*; he enters into some considerations concerning its probable use in the act of vision, suggested by its low reflecting power and immediate connexion with the retina; and supposes that vibrations are excited in it by the converging pencils of light, and that these are communicated to the contiguous retina, and thus transferred to the brain.—*Second Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.*

2. *Hermaphroditism*.—The following singular variety of hermaphroditism was communicated to the Academy of Medicine at their meeting of the 5th of March last, by M. BOUILLAUD. The subject of it was a person sixty-two years of age; by trade a hatter, stating himself to be a widower, and who died of cholera in the hospital La Pitié. No suspicion was entertained of the patient not being a male until upon opening the body a uterus was discovered. The following are the results of a careful dissection made by M. Manec. The penis was of ordinary size and well-formed, having a glans and prepuce; the meatus urinarius was not exactly in the centre of the glans, but somewhat nearer its lower part; the scrotum was rather small, but otherwise quite masculine, being brown and puckered, divided by a longitudinal raphe, and shaded with hair; there was however no trace of testicles; nothing but such cellular tissue as we find in the labia pudendi, or nymphæ. The mons veneris was fuller and more prominent than in man; the internal organs were two ovaries, two fallopian tubes, and a well-formed uterus, of the usual size in the virgin state, and situated between the rectum and bladder; it opened by a regular os tincæ into a vagina, which was of an average size, and two inches in length; where the vagina was close to the neck of the urinary bladder, it suddenly contracted, and at the membranous portion of the urethra it was reduced to a very small tube, which after turning upwards opened by an orifice of the diameter of about two millimetres, into the membranous portion, so that the urethra was in fact the continuation of the vagina. Beyond the opening, the urethra had all the characters of the male one; at the neck of the bladder it was surrounded by a prostate; and a distinct verumontanum, with the orifices of the prostatic ducts opening at its side, was found. The corpus spongiosum urethræ, and the two corpora cavernosa penis were of the usual size and appearance; the acceleratores urinæ were very large; Cowper's glands also existed. There was no trace of testicles, vasa deferentia, or vesiculæ seminales; a sort of round ligament passed through the inguinal canal. The patient had a thick beard, and the general form of his body was intermediate between that of the two sexes.—*Journal Hebdomadaire*, March, 1833.

3. *Anatomical Anomaly*.—A recent No. of the *Transactions Médicales* contains a notice of an infant which lived fourteen days, and exhibited no signs of cyanosis, and in which not only was the foramen ovale largely open, but the pulmonary artery, after having given off its branches to the lungs, curved round to the left side, and was continued down along the vertebral column in the place of the descending aorta which was wanting. The aorta arose as usual from the left ventricle, and ascended towards the neck, where it bifurcated.

4. *Bilobed Uterus*.—M. MOREAU exhibited to the Academy of Medicine at the sitting of the 15th of January last, a uterus completely and equally divided laterally: the two halves were separated by a double partition. Each half was provided with a tube and ovary; and had distinct necks opening into a single vagina. The woman died after delivery; the fœtus was a male, and had been developed in the left cavity.—*Rev. Méd. Feb.* 1833.

5. *Bilobed Urinary Bladder*.—At the same meeting M. VELPEAU exhibited a specimen of a bilobed urinary bladder. The subsidiary pouch was small and situated posteriorly, and communicated with the anterior one by an opening near the triangular space at the inferior portion of the bladder. A calculus was found in the anterior pouch, which could not have been extracted except by the high operation, as the incision in the lateral mode must have been made into the posterior pouch.—*Ibid.*

6. *Open Foramen Ovale*.—Of thirteen cases of this kind examined by M. PIGEAUX, two only of them were accompanied with cyanosis.—*Rev. Méd. March*, 1833.